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Media Advisory

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Detroit District

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Army Engineers invite all to start, end summer at Soo Locks *Corps celebrates 150 years of Great Lakes navigation*

DETROIT -- Residents of the state of Michigan and beyond can kick off their summer and close it out at what's been dubbed the 'billion-dollar mile.'

This June the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Detroit District will offer that opportunity as they do each June on Engineers Day . This year's Engineers Day, traditionally the last Friday in June, will be June 24.

The gates of the locks literally swing open at 10 a.m. that day. Once the gates are unlocked, the public is able to cross the locks and see the ship locking process up-close and personal. Also, visitors will have an opportunity to delve into the history of the locks and Sault Ste. Marie with a variety of events from historical re-enactments, to musical tributes, as well as military ceremonies.

The day is to begin with the Detroit District's 150th Commemoration and Rededication Ceremony at 9 a.m. in the Soo Locks Park. Gates to the locks open to the public at 10 a.m. New this year, the locks gates will remain open two extra hours until 6 p.m.

The Soo Locks visitor center has lots of history and the like on the Soo Locks and surrounding area. In and around the visitor center, historical re-enactors from the period of the locks' birth and before will be presenting life as it was 150 years ago.

Different U.S. Army units will sponsor static displays and even a rock-climbing wall beginning at 10 a.m. in the Soo Locks Park.

Also new this year for the 150th Anniversary Celebration, the Corps will open the lock gates again to the public on from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sept. 2 to close the celebration.

For more details, you can visit <http://www.lre.usace.army.mil/newsandevents/events/soolockscelebrates!>

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Note: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District civil works program encompasses 93,000 square miles area of the lower Great Lakes basin in Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Ohio. The Corps operates and/or maintains 104 navigation structures in the basin. Its mission includes real estate transactions, flood control, regulatory activities, disaster response, and mobilization readiness.